

should fold up like other makes."

On the plus side, LeRoy nominates his Deere 7000 Max Emerge planter as a best buy because of its even spacing and depth of planting.

**James H. Newton, Edmeaton, N.Y.:** "The 950 is not just a garden tractor. I use it to unload full wagons of silage and for other work, too," says James, pleased with his John Deere 950 tractor with mower. "For a tractor with a three cylinder diesel motor, this is a smooth workhorse. Uses little fuel and even mows the lawn when the grass is wet."

**Robert Pero, Washington Court House, Ohio:** Robert's upset with a 5 hp. "phase liner" he bought from "International Energy Conservation Services Corp. It's an electrical device installed in the power line. The company guaranteed to refund the purchase price within 120 days if it failed to reduce power consumption 10% compared to a similar period and work load. It didn't reduce my consumption at all so I notified the company a year ago. I'm still waiting to get my refund."

**Gerald Larson, Valley City, N. Dak.:** "My best buy was a subscription to FARM SHOW. Beats lots of the other farm magazines I get."

On the negative side, Gerald nominates his pre-built home as a "worst buy." "I bought a Dynamic Home to be set up on my farm about two and

or zero degree cold weather, and never settles out. Comes as a dark oil recommended for machine threading, and as a clear oil for hand threading."

**Weldon Lachmund, West Lafayette, Ind.:** "I like the fold-flat wing design," says Weldon about his "best buy" 15-30 Hinniker field cultivator. "Extremely well made, and does an excellent job, although it requires a minimum of 180 hp to handle the width."

**Ronald E. Freeman, Atwood, Ill.:** "We certainly enjoy FARM SHOW," says Ronald, nominating it as his best buy. He says his "worst buy" is his 1980 LTD Kawasaki snowmobile. "The machine was in the shop all last winter with neither the factory nor the dealer willing to service it, even though it has a one year warranty."

**Jim Chase, Dushore, Penn.:** "My best buy has been a 1978 Chevy diesel pickup, except when I forget to plug it in the night before. Then, it won't start even if the temperature just drops below 30°."

"Hiring custom spraying and getting a bum job was my worst purchase. Will spray our own crops from now on."

**Carl Nelson, Goodland, Kan.:** He's had good luck with his Versatile 850 tractor. "This 4-wheel drive has run almost trouble-free since I bought it. Quiet and smooth to operate."

**Tony Heppe, Jr., Atwater, Ohio:** "Except for normal maintenance, it hasn't cost five cents to repair," states Tony, pleased with his Model 35 Dunham Lehr 3-bar, 12-shank chisel plow. "It has great trash clearance. On 500 acres, it plugged just five times where the combine had stopped."

"This tractor has plenty of power, is easy on fuel and turns short. However, dealer service is poor," adds Tony about his 1086 International Tractor. "The tractor has been back three times for repair of the differential lock which still doesn't work right. Also, after 600 hrs., my front tires wore out although, according to the dealer, nothing was the matter. On the plus side, it has plenty of power, is easy on fuel and turns short."

**Reggie Stevens, St. Johns, Mich.:** Reggie's happy with his Calhoun 450 fertilizer spreader: "Spreads uniformly with no belts to slip or come off."

**Henry Welberg, Baudette, Minn.:** "No trouble at all. Gets 12 to 14 miles per gallon with the topper on," reports Henry about his "best buy" Dodge D-150 4 by 4 pickup.

**Dean Gerot, Ainsworth, Iowa:** "We're happy with our 4006 Deutz tractor," says Dean, who bought the tractor in 1975 and now has 3800 hrs. on it. "It's never been back to the shop in that time, has started every day, and runs very cheap. Dealer service is good."

**Thomas Pearson, Hudson, Iowa:** "We had only one malfunction all season — a small valve in the diesel pump — and that was replaced quickly by the dealer after a call," Thomas reports about his "best buy" Deere 8820 combine with 20-ft. platform and 8-row corn head. "A high

capacity and efficient machine, both in soybeans and 170 bu. corn."

He's not happy, however, with his Vermeer 900 3-pt. hitch backhoe. "Basically, it's a fine piece of equipment, but will not function using the tractor hydraulic system, as it is sold to do. It doesn't have any digging power, swinging too fast and jerking the tractor. We tried different tractors with the same results."

**Robert Morrison, Freeport, Penn.:** "Poorly made. Had to be straightened or welded every time we took it out — just to push snow. Have it pretty well reconstructed now," Morrison reports about his Kewanee 8-ft. blade.

On the other hand, he nominates his Ford 7700 tractor as a "best buy". "An all-around good machine that's comfortable to operate and has plenty

### "An all-around good machine. Comfortable to operate and has plenty of power."

of power. Had some clutch problems at first but Ford service straightened things out."

**John Hoying, St. Henry, Ohio:** "They told me there was nothing I or they could do to solve the problem, and that I would just have to put up with it," says John, upset with his John Deere 2440 tractor with a model 146 loader. "The valves leak badly and the loader won't stay up. I've had two new hydraulic pumps put on and three different valves replaced and it still leaks."

High on his "best buy" list is his Badger silage wagon: "It works quiet and smooth. Repair parts are easy to get and service is excellent."

"Another good buy was the Demco liquid fertilizer pump on our corn planter. Simple, easy to maintain and nothing to wear out," John reports.

**Paul Smith, Columbus Grove, Ohio:** "I bought a Five Star 'Tillerod' on the basis of their advertising because there were none in this area to look at. I found out why there are none in this area. It can't handle trash at all."

Paul says his second "worst buy" was "a membership in National Farm Purchasing. I tried half a dozen different items, such as tires, chemicals, parts and farm implements and could get as good a deal locally every time."

**John Hasse, Swanville, Minn.:** John's pleased with his Stihl Farm Boss chain saw. "A good running saw with lots of power. Good balance and starts well. The only thing I don't like is the hand guard."

**Marcus Bernard, Jefferson, S. Dak.:** "Everything has been satisfactory, including warranty service, but we're still short four front weights that we didn't receive from the dealer," says Marcus about his "best buy" IH 1086 tractor.

**David Marvin, Medina, Ohio:** "The radios work fine but some people in the Motorola organization can't seem to do anything right," says David about his Motorola business

radios. "After phone calls to several departments, I am still being billed for things I don't owe. I also haven't received a refund yet for radio installation I contracted for and had to do myself."

On the plus side, David's happy with his Ford 8700 tractor. "This tractor has a quiet comfortable cab. Dealer service has been excellent on the few minor problems I've had."

**Earl Sorg, Mt. Perry, Ohio:** "Very satisfactory performance. It's especially handy for cleaning fence rows, building fence, and so on. It's small but the best I ever owned," reports Earl about the Homelite Super 2 chain saw he bought last year.

**Ralph K. Sutton, Hunter, Kan.:** Heading his "best buy" list is his John Deere 4440 tractor, outfitted with a Farmhand 258 manure loader and 8-ft. bucket. "The tractor is one of the better 130-hp tractors I've ever owned. Service has been excellent. As for the loader, the bucket bent right after I bought it but Farmhand replaced it at no cost to me so I'm well satisfied with both purchases."

On the negative side, Ralph's had trouble with his 1980 GMC Sierra Grande 4 by 4 pickup. "The company doesn't seem to equip these pickups for a farmer using them as a workhorse in mud and snow. The tires that come on it are suburban tires that fill up with mud and won't clean. Had lots of problems."

**Tom McCall, Elberton, Ga.:** Tom nominates his Taylorway high-speed cultivator as a "best buy". "It allows you to work through small crops as well as larger or older crops at about the same fast speed. There's no comparison between this sweep-type cultivator and a rolling cultivator on hard dry land. It's definitely the best machine of its kind I've ever seen or operated."

Tom is disappointed with Dormal, a soybean inoculant with molybdenum: "The product didn't seem to cover the seed in the planter hopper the way other seed treatments do. Didn't seem to adhere to the seed as well."

**Oliver Hagg, Salina, Kan.:** "I like my new 1980 Citation, a two-door with a 4-cyl. engine. The front wheel drive is good in mud and to get out of old ruts, and pulls you around corners on short turns," says Oliver. "It has a 3-speed transmission, air conditioning, and cruise control. I get 23 to 25 mpg. with farm and city driving. It has plenty room for 5 people and as large a trunk as the Nova I traded in for it. With our 55 mph speed limit, the cruise control is almost a highway must."

**Wesley G. Benda, Ludell, Kan.:** "Cheap transportation is important to us as we are 2½ miles from the mailbox, 15 miles from the closest town, 22 and 35 miles from towns we need to go to for repairs, and 58 miles from a town offering a variety of clothing and 'fun-shopping' articles," Wesley told FARM SHOW. He covers these miles with a 1978 Ford Courier pickup. "It gets reasonably good mileage — 20 mpg. for every day driving and 27 mpg. on the road. The

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### "Trying to get someone out from the factory to fix problems was a joke."

one-half years ago. The house was built at Mandan, N. Dak. When I ordered the house, it was supposed to have 2 by 10 in. floor joists, but instead came with 2 by 8-in. joists. Also, when my wife shuts the door at one end of the house, the other door pops open, even though it's in locked position. There were big gaps around the door that we had to stuff rags into to keep the cold out. Trying to get someone out from the factory to fix the problems was a joke, and trying to get my dealer to come out and complete the work was a bigger joke."

**Vernon Brose, Sunbury, Penn.:** "The TI-59 calculator with programs written by Cornell and Iowa State Universities has helped me teach the principles of farm management to many families that have never taken time to work the problems out by hand. It's a great education tool and problem solver," reports Vernon about the Texas Instruments programmable calculator he uses in his job as a county agent. "It hasn't been without electronic problems but, for the most part, has been a good investment."

**Myron Hebbert, Chadron, Nebr.:** "It's one of the best cutting oils I've ever used," says Myron, happy with a colloidal sulphur base cutting oil from S.O.S. Products Company, Inc., (East Greenville, Penn.) "Pours in hot